NUMB. CXVI.

The GUARDIAN.

——————Ridiculum acri
Fortius & melius—————— Hor.

Friday, July 24. 1713.

THERE are many little Enormities in the World, which our Preachers would be very glad to ſee removed; but at the ſame time dare not meddle with them, for fear of betraying the Dignity of the Pulpit. Should they recommend the *Tucker* in a Pathetick Diſcourſe, their Audiences would be apt to laugh out. I knew a Pariſh, where the top-Woman of it uſed always to appear with a Patch upon ſome part of her Forehead: The good Man of the Place Preached at it with great Zeal for almoſt a Twelvemonth; but inſtead of fetching out the Spot which he perpetually aimed at, he only got the Name of Parſon *Patch* for his Pains. Another is to this Day called by the Name of Doctor *Topknot* for Reaſons of the ſame Nature. I remember the Clergy, during the Time of *Cromwell*'s Uſurpation, were very much taken up in reforming the Female World, and ſhowing the Vanity of thoſe outward Ornaments in which the Sex ſo much delights. I have heard a whole Sermon againſt a White-waſh, and have known a coloured Ribbon made the Mark of the Unconverted. The Clergy of the preſent Age are not tranſported with theſe indiſcreet Fervours, as knowing that it is hard for a Reformer to avoid Ridicule, when he is ſevere upon Subjects which are rather apt to produce Mirth than Seriouſneſs. For this reaſon I look upon my ſelf to be of great Uſe to theſe good Men; while they are employed in extirpating Mortal Sins, and Crimes of a higher Nature, I ſhould be glad to rally the World out of Indecencies and Venial Tranſgreſſions. While the Doctor is curing Diſtempers that have the Appearance of Danger or Death in them, the *Merry-Andrew* has his ſeparate Packet for the Megrims and the Tooth-ach.

Thus much I thought fit to premiſe before I reſume the Subject which I have already handled, I mean the naked Boſomes of our *Britiſh* Ladies. I hope they will not take it ill of me, if I ſtill beg that they will be covered. I ſhall here preſent them with a Letter on that Particular, as it was yeſterday conveyed to me through the Lion's Mouth. It comes from a Quaker, and is as follows.

NESTOR IRONSIDE.

'OUR Friends like thee. We rejoice to find thou 'begin'ſt to have a glimmering of the Light 'in thee: We ſhall pray for thee, that thou may'ſt 'be more and more enlightened. Thou giveſt 'good Advice to the Women of this World to 'Cloath themſelves like unto our Friends, and not 'to expoſe their fleſhly Temptations, for it is a-'gainſt the Record. Thy Lion is a good Lion; he 'roareth loud, and is heard a great way, even unto 'the Sink of *Babylon*; for the Scarlet Whore is go-'verned by the Voice of thy Lion. Look on his 'Order.

Rome,

Rome, July 8, 1713. ‘*A Placard is* ‘*publiſhed here, forbidding Women, of what-*‘*ſoever Quality, to go with naked Breaſts;* ‘*and the Prieſts are ordered not to admit the* ‘*Tranſgreſſors of this Law to Confeſſion, nor to* ‘*Communion; neither are they to enter the Ca-*‘*thedrals under ſevere Penalties.*

‘Theſe Lines are faithfully copied from the night-‘ly Paper, with this Title written over it, *The* ‘*Evening Poſt*, from *Saturday*, *July* the 19th, to ‘*Tueſday*, *July* the 22d.

‘Seeing thy Lion is obeyed at this Diſtance, ‘we hope the fooliſh Women in thy own Country ‘will liſten to thy Admonitions. Otherwiſe thou art ‘deſired to make him ſtill Roar till all the Beaſts ‘of the Foreſt ſhall tremble. I muſt again repeat ‘unto thee, Friend *Neſtor*, the whole Brotherhood ‘have great Hopes of thee, and expect to ſee thee ſo ‘inſpired with the Light, as thou mayeſt ſpeedily ‘become a great Preacher of the Word. I wiſh ‘it heartily.

Thine,

in every thing that is Praiſe-worthy,

Tom. Tremble.

Tom's Coffee-houſe in Birchin-lane *the* 23*d Day of the Month called* July.

It happens very oddly that the Pope and I ſhould have the ſame Thought much about the ſame Time. My Enemies will be apt to ſay that we hold a Correſpondence together, and act by Concert in this Matter. Let that be as it will, I ſhall not be aſhamed to join with his Holineſs in thoſe Particulars which are indifferent between us, eſpecially when it is for the Reformation of the finer half of Mankind. We are both of us about the ſame Age, and conſider this Faſhion in the ſame View. I hope that it will not be able to reſiſt his Bull and my Lion. I am only afraid that our Ladies will take an Occaſion from hence to ſhow their Zeal for the Proteſtant Religion, and pretend to expoſe their naked Boſoms only in Oppoſition to Popery.

This Paper is to be had of Mr. Yemes *under the* Thatch'd-houſe *Tavern in St.* James's-ſtreet; *Mrs.* Bond *at* Charing-croſs; *Mrs.* Bolter *and Mrs.* Dodd *near the* Temple-gate; *and Mr.* Round *in* Exchange-Ally.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

On Monday **next will be Publiſh'd,**

A French Tranſlation of the Tragedy of CATO.

Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

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Neat French Brandy, a very conſiderable Quantity, full Proof and of the true Flavour, newly laid in from the Weſtern Ports, are Sold at ninety four Pounds per Tunn, and at eight Shillings per Gallon; at the Black Lion over-againſt Ironmonger Lane in Cheapſide.

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LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.